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23 August 1960

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West Germany: [Following conversations with Chancellor Adenauer and Foreign Minister Brentano, West German Ambassador to Moscow Hans Kroll feels it now is virtually certain that no Bundestag meeting will be held in Berlin before November. In a radio speech on 21 August, West Berlin Mayor Brandt again demanded such a meeting be held despite Soviet threats to sign a separate East German peace treaty. Although Brandt claimed British support for his position, the British Government has recently indicated opposition to the holding of the Bundestag meeting in Berlin in the near future on grounds that this might provoke the USSR.]

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DAILY BRIEF

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DAILY BRIEF

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Situation in Laos

[Premier Souvanna Phouma, accompanied by Lao army commander General Ouane, a representative of rebel paratroop Captain Kong Le, and the United Nations deputy representative in Laos, flew from Vientiane to Savannakhet on 23 August for negotiations with General Phoumi, leader of the countercoup movement. Presumably, the delegation will stress the danger that rebel paratroop Captain Kong Le, whose troops firmly control the Vientiane area, will join forces with the pro-Communist Pathet Lao dissidents if Phoumi persists in attempting to nullify the 9 August coup and succeeding developments.]

[The high-level composition of this delegation should facilitate the task of reaching a compromise settlement of differences. However, Phoumi may still question the extent of Souvanna's real authority, and may have in mind the creation of a rival government to challenge the Souvanna regime, which he considers illegal. The gravitation of Lao VIPs to Savannakhet continues. Prince Boun Oum Na Champassak, inspector general of the kingdom, arrived on 21 August via Thailand after flight from Vientiane. Leaflets dropped in Vientiane on 22 August requested pro-Phoumi deputies to re-form the National Assembly at Savannakhet. The arrival of three more deputies reported en route from Vientiane would bring the unofficial count of deputies at Savannakhet to 25, or five short of a quorum.]

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[The bulk of the 800 battle-hardened troops of Kong Le's 2nd Paratroop Battalion reportedly have set up a defense perimeter several miles outside Vientiane, and Pathet Lao elements apparently are also in blocking position astride road and river approaches to the capital.]

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[REDACTED] General
Ouane told the American army attaché in Vientiane on 22 August
that "the Pathet Lao would attack Phoumi's forces for us" if an
attack were made on Vientiane.]

[The degree of present collusion between Kong Le and the
Pathet Lao is unclear. General Ouane confirms that talks have
been held but states that no liaison exists. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Estimates of Pathet Lao strength in
the Vientiane vicinity vary from several hundred to 2,000; the
lower figure is believed more accurate.] [REDACTED]

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The Vice President

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- Scientific Adviser to the President
- Director of the Budget
- Director, Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization
- Director, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Special Assistant for Security Operations Coordination
- Chairman, Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities
- Special Assistant for Foreign Economic Policy
- Executive Secretary, National Security Council

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- The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
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- The Director, The Joint Staff
- Chief of Staff, United States Army
- Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy
- Chief of Staff, United States Air Force
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- Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army
- Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy
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